

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the following below-indicated paragraphs with the below replacement paragraphs.

[0024] With specific reference to FIGS. 1, 2, 3 and 7, in one embodiment, the coupler 10 includes a cap 18, a pin 20, and a driver 22. Cap 18 and driver 22 sit on a head 19 which is the most distal end of the housing 14. Pin 20 extends through a bore 82 that extend through the head. The coupler 10 is movable to and between an open position, as shown, in FIGS. 1, 2 and 7, and a closed position, as shown in FIG. 3. When the coupler 10 is in the open position, the surgical saw blade 12 may be removed, positioned or inserted into the coupler 10. The coupler 10 may be moved to the closed position to secure the surgical saw blade 12 in place.

[0025] As shown in FIGS. 5 and 6, the pin 20 has an upper portion 24, a circular ~~portion~~ collar 26, and a bottom portion 28. The upper portion 24 has a cylindrical shape including a top portion 30 and a coupling portion 32. The top portion 30 has a slightly smaller diameter than the coupling portion 32. As shown in FIGS. 1 and 7, the cap 18 includes a cap aperture 34 which receives and secures the coupling portion 32. In one embodiment, the pin 20 and the cap 18 are secured together by a press fit between the cap 18 and the ~~coupling portion 32 of the pin 20~~ pin upper

portion 30.

[0026] Returning to FIGS. 5 and 6, ~~the circular portion~~ collar 26 has a circular outer edge 36. More particularly, the diameter of the collar outer edge 36 is such that the collar extends radially beyond the pin upper and bottom portions 24 and 28, respectively. As shown, the ~~circular portion~~ collar 26 includes a plurality of pin apertures 38. In the illustrated embodiment, the circular portion 26 includes four pin apertures 38A, 38B, 38C, 38D. In one embodiment, each aperture 38 has first and second arcuate sides 40A, 40B and first and second linear sides 42A, 42B.

[0027] As seen in Figure 3, cap 18 is shaped to extend over the below-discussed prongs 54A and 54B that are integral with the driver 22. Cap 18 is further shaped to have an opening 51 that extends upwardly from the inner face of the cap, the face directed towards pin collar 26. Opening 51 is aligned with drive 22 to receive prongs 54A and 54B. When joined together, the cap 18 and ~~the circular portion~~ collar 26 of the pin 20 are spaced apart from each other to form a coupler slot 44 which receives the surgical saw blade 12. Cap 18 may sit on the annular step between pin top portion and coupler portion 32 so that stand off from collar 26 so as to ensure slot 44 is of proper width.

[0030] In the illustrated embodiment, driver locking portion 48 has a base (not identified) with an outer surface that is generally planar in shape. ~~the~~ The locking portion 48 includes four ~~engaging~~ rigid raised members 52A,

~~52B, 52C, 52D~~ 56 that are arcuately spaced apart from each other. As shown, each ~~engaging~~ raised member 52 56 has a general ~~curved U~~ arcuate shape. Raised members 56 are centered around a bore (not identified) that extends through the base of driver locking portion 48. Each engaging member 52 further has first and second engaging prongs 54A, 54B and a central engaging portion 56. First and second prongs 54A and 54B are integral with each raised member 56. Prongs 54A and 54B extend upwardly from the opposed ends of the raised member 56 with which the prongs are integral. Prongs 54A and 54B are concentric with raised members 56. Driver 22 is further shaped so that prongs 54A and 54B extend above raised members 56.

[0034] With the coupler 10 in the open position, shown in exaggerated view in Figure 7, pin 20 is longitudinally positioned relative to housing head 15 and driver locking portion 48 so that collar 26 is disposed above driver prongs 54. When coupling 10 is so positioned, since the coupler slot 44 is clear of the prongs, the surgical saw blade 12 may be inserted into the coupler slot 44 formed between the cap 18 and the pin 20. The blade slot 66 slips around the coupling portion 32 of the pin 20. The surgical saw blade 12 may be positioned within the coupler slot 44 such that the blade apertures 68 align with the engaging prongs 54 of the locking members 52.

[0035] Once the surgical saw blade 12 is in position, the coupler 10 may be closed or moved to the closed position. ~~With particular reference to FIG. 14, which is~~

~~an enlarged view~~ Figures 3 and 14 are views of the
coupler 10 and surgical saw blade 12, when the coupler 10
is in the closed position. As shown, the coupling
portion 32 of the pin 20 forms a ledge 70. The cap 18 rests
on the ledge 70 forming a back portion 72 of the coupler
slot 44 with the circular portion 26 of the pin 20. The
surgical saw blade 12 is inserted into the coupler slot 44.
When coupler 10 is so positioned, the action of the below-
discussed spring 96 against pin 20 holds cap 18 close to
driver locking portion 46. Raised members 56, which extend
through collar apertures 38, abut the undersurface of the
blade 12. Blade 12 is thus compressed between cap 18 and
raised members 56. It should be appreciated that the
abutment of the blade 12 against the raised members 56
stops the downward movement of the cap 18 towards the drive
locking portion 46. Since cap 18 and collar 26 are a
single component, the downward movement of the collar is
likewise restricted by the abutment of raised members 56
against saw blade 12. Thus, as seen in Figures 3 and 11 as
a consequence of the downward movement of the collar being
blocked, the collar is held above the outer surface of the
driver locking portion 46. Prongs 54A and 54B also extend
through blade apertures 38. Prongs 54A and 54B are have
sufficient length to, as seen in Figure 3, extend through
slot 44 into cap opening 51. More particularly, prongs 54A
and 54B extend through blade apertures 68, which are
disposed in slot 44 so as to stop lateral movement of the
blade 12 out of the slot 44.

[0036] The first end 58 of the surgical saw blade 12 has a width, X, which is slightly smaller than the width, Y, of ~~the second groove 74~~ slot 44 between cap 18 and collar 26. For example, in one embodiment, the surgical saw blade 12 has a width of 0.025 inches and ~~the second groove 74~~ slot 44 has a width of 0.027 inches.

[0041] Returning to FIG. 3, the coupler 10 further includes a bearing 80 inserted into a housing ~~aperture~~ head bore 82 within the housing 14. A cup 84 is inserted within the center of the bearing 80. The cup 84 has a first end 86 and a second end 88. The first end 86 includes a cup aperture 90. A lip 92 is located at the second end 88. The bottom portion 28 of the pin 20 passes through the cup aperture 90. The lip 92 rests against the bearing ~~82~~ 80 and prevents further inward (to the left in FIG. 3) movement of the cup 84. A button 94 having a press fit with the bottom portion 28 of the pin 20 is inserted between the bottom portion 28 and the cup 84. A biasing spring 96 is located between the button 94 and the first end 86 of the cup 84. The biasing spring 96 acts against the button 94, and thus, the pin 20, to bias the pin 20 to close the coupler 10. In the illustrated embodiment, the biasing spring 96 acts to close the coupler 10. To insert, remain, and/or exchange blades 12, 12' the cap 18 and pin 20 are manually opened (against the force exerted by the spring 96) by pushing on the button 94. After the blade 12, 12' is removed and/or inserted, the spring 96 acts to close the coupler 10, thus locking the blade 12, 12' in place.